

# Working overtime

David Lowery juggles court, career and kids

By Bob Evancho

**T**hink you've got a busy schedule? Ponder the five months David Lowery put in during the past basketball season.

- As a starting forward for Boise State, Lowery had to withstand the rigors of daily practices, long road trips and burly opponents pounding on his 6-foot-5, 197-pound frame — no easy task when you consider the demands of coach Bobby Dye's chip-on-the-shoulder, belly-up style of defense that has become the Broncos' trademark.

- As a radiography major, Lowery is required to spend six hours a day, three days a week accumulating clinical experience at Mercy Medical Center in Nampa. This is in addition to four other classes.

- As part of his hitch with the Air Force's "Palace Chase" program, in which he resigned his active duty to join the Air National Guard, Staff Sgt. Lowery must report to Gowen Field one weekend a month for six years.

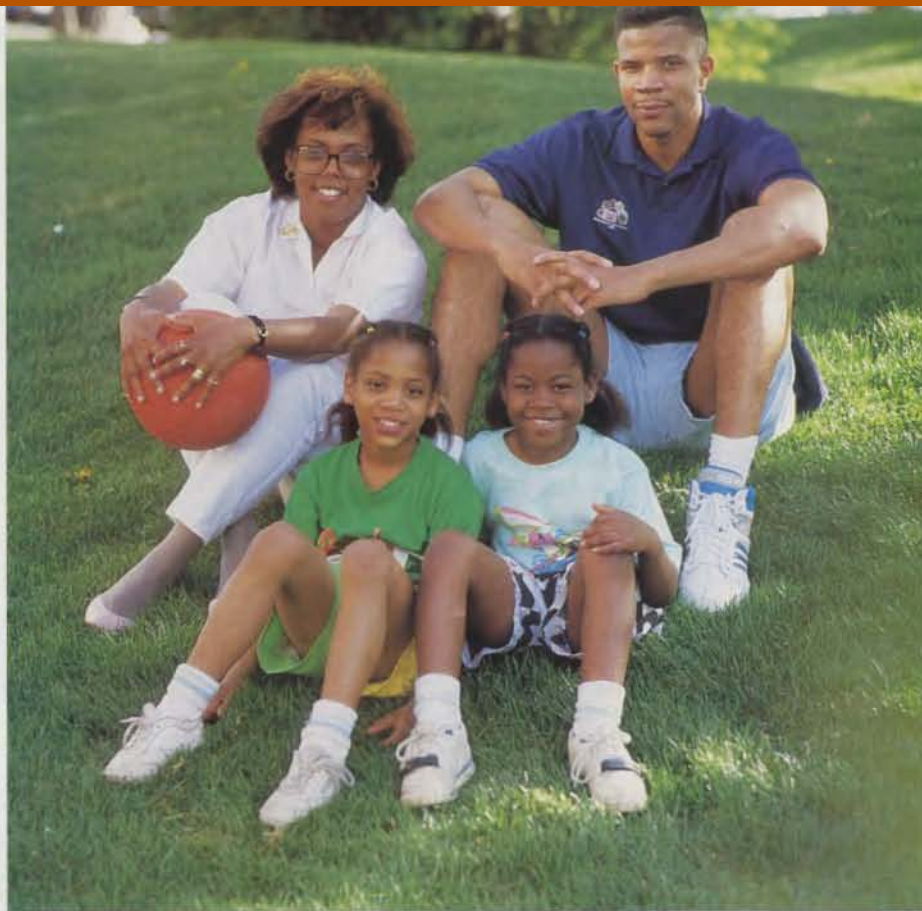
- Oh yeah, Lowery and his wife, Reuniqué, are raising her 8-year-old twin sisters, My-Yon and Ry-Yon.

There have been variations on the same theme listed above during his three years with the Boise State basketball program, but one thing is certain: David Lowery knows the meaning of discipline.

With this issue of *FOCUS* devoted to the "Year of the Student," Lowery, a prospective X-ray technician and member of the 1988-89 Big Sky all-academic basketball team, embodies the meaning of scholar-athlete. But as a husband and substitute father, it's obvious there's much more to this 25-year-old Pennsylvania native.

How has he managed to balance basketball, books and sudden parental responsibilities?

"It's been hard," he says. "But my first two years when I wasn't playing much helped me out. I was able to sit back and observe and figure out what I needed to do to be able to do all these things. This



Reuniqué and David have become substitute parents for Ry-Yon, left, and My-Yon. Chuck Scheer photo

past season was really rough at first, but I just tried to put myself into a gear where I could do them all. I might not do them all as well as I'd like to, but . . ."

A typical day during the basketball season would go something like this: Work in Nampa from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Back in Boise at 2:30 p.m. Practice from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Home. Dinner. Parental duties. Homework. "It's a little easier on Tuesdays and Thursdays," Lowery says. "I don't have to go to Nampa those days."

As for all student-athletes, life at times is a juggling act. "It's pretty tough when we go on the road," Lowery says. "I've missed a lot of time with early practices and road trips that I have to make up. I've also had the same problems with my Air Force commitment."

All these responsibilities increased when Reuniqué's two sisters joined the couple last summer. "I went back home [to Atlanta] last summer, and I really didn't like the conditions they were living in with my mother," says Reuniqué, whose parents are divorced. "I came to Boise and told David how stressed out I was over the situation."

Eventually Reuniqué, 25, asked her mother to let the girls join her and David in Boise. Her mother's reply? "If you're so damned concerned about them, take

them with you," Reuniqué recalls her mother saying.

"We actually chose not to have children yet because we're both serious about our careers and school," says Reuniqué, who met her husband when both of them were serving in the Air Force in England. "It was a high anxiety situation for both of us and I felt guilty for a while because they aren't really our responsibility, but I couldn't handle the way they were being raised."

The Lowerys' lives have been made easier thanks to many helpful friends and associates. "A lot of people at the university and Campus Elementary [where the twins attend school] have helped us out a great deal," says Reuniqué, a senior psychology major. "Everything has worked out really well."

Reuniqué, who is the treasurer of the Black Student Union and serves on the ASBSU Judiciary Council, and David plan to go on to graduate school after they leave BSU. But first there is the small matter of one more basketball season for David. "Coach Dye has already told me he's expecting a lot from me because I'm a returning senior," he says.

Life after Boise State may include medical school for both Lowerys. "It's a lot of work, but we'll have 40 years to enjoy it," Reuniqué jokes. □